Facility Information

Name: City of Bonners Ferry
Contact: David Sims, Assistant City Administrator
Type: Water Supply (SIC 4941)
Physical Address: 6362 Washington, Building T, Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 149, Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
Phone Number: (208) 267-4380
Fax Number: (208) 255-9107
Permit Number: ID-002045-1

Inspection Information

Date: July 28, 2011
Entry Time: 9:30 am
Exit Time: 11:30 am
Inspector(s): Jennifer Wester (Idaho DEQ-State Office), Matt Plaisted (Idaho DEQ-CRO)
Facility Personnel: Doug Ladely, David Sims, Jim Fritzche (all Bonners Ferry)
Report Author: Jennifer Wester (Idaho DEQ-State Office)
Inspection Type: Announced CEI
Weather: Mostly sunny, around 75°F
Purpose: Determination of compliance with NPDES Permit #ID-002045-1 and the Clean Water Act.

Owner/Operator Information

Owner: City of Bonners Ferry
Operator: Jim Fritzche

Inspection Entry

Mr. Plaisted and I arrived at 9:30 am to meet Mr. Carothers at City Hall. No credentials were presented as I have not yet received any; however I showed my DEQ identification badge and left copies of my business card. I explained that DEQ has a contract with EPA to perform a number of NPDES inspections each year. Access was granted to inspect and photograph the water treatment system and operation records.

Background

The City of Bonners Ferry's water treatment plant consists of two parallel filter beds. The facility is located at the top of a hill above Bonners Ferry on the south side of the Kootenai River. The plant is fenced and consists of several buildings and storage tanks. For this inspection, I entered Building T which houses the filters, pumps, disinfection and meters. The operator's offices are on the second floor of the building, overlooking the filter tanks. The settling basin for the backwash and filter-to-waste is located at the back of the plant, in the area that used to be the sedimentation basin for the drinking water treatment process. The discharge from the basin flows down to the Kootenai River through the old river intake piping (Outlet 001). There are no other outfalls from the plant.

Waste Management Process

Wastewater from the treatment process is generated from periodic backwash of the filters and contributions from filter-to-waste. The backwash dislodges particles that clog the filters, extending the operational life. Filter-to-waste is generated immediately following a backwash when the filtered water is not considered to be of drinking water quality. At the Bonners Ferry plant, these wastewaters are sent to a settling tank (see Figures 9 and 15 in Appendix 1) where the solids are allowed to settle before passing to the outfall.

Scope of the Inspection

During the inspection, I reviewed the facility permit, records (see Figures 17 through 31 of Appendix 1), treatment site (see Figures 8 through 16), operations and maintenance (see Figures 22 through 30) and discharge point (see Figures 1 through 7). Sample collection was not evaluated at the time of the inspection. While flow meters were discussed, no calibration records were examined. Sludge handling processes and procedures were not evaluated at the time of the inspection.

Records Review

As shown in Figures 17 through 31 of Appendix 1, I reviewed the most recent Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) (June 2011) and associated documentation as well as material to be used in the compilation of the July 2011 DMR. Hard copies of DMR data submitted by the permittee are kept in a file cabinet in the office at the plant (see Figure 25). Figure 23 shows the onsite laboratory TSS data sheet for June 2011. The calculations for the June 2011 DMR appear to have been done correctly and there were no discrepancies noted between the recorded and reported data.

The permittee had a Quality Assurance Plan (QAP) onsite at the time of the inspection (see Figures 17 and 18), although it was undated.

The permittee also had a Best Management Practices (BMP) Plan onsite at the time of the inspection (see Figures 19 and 20), although it was undated. I suggested that, since the plant has had new equipment installed, the QAP and BMP plan be evaluated and updated, especially with the new permit. I also suggested that the emergency phone list in the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) manual include contact numbers for EPA and the DEQ Coeur d'Alene Regional Office.

Receiving Water

The Bonners Ferry water treatment plant discharges directly to the Kootenai River. Outfall 001 and the associated structures and piping are shown in Figures 1 through 7 of Appendix 1. I was not able to view the outfall directly since there was no direct access from the pump house.

Area(s) of Concern

At the time of the inspection, no areas of concern were readily apparent. From review of historical data, the permittee exceeded the Total Suspended Solids (TSS) requirements of the permit repeatedly since December 2006. No excursions of the TSS limits have occurred since August 2009 according to the permit summary included in Appendix 2. The summary was supplied by Stacey Erickson of EPA on July 27, 2011.

Closing Conference

The closing conference took place after observing the plant with Dave Sims (Bonners Ferry), Doug Ladely (Bonners Ferry), Jim Fritzche (Bonners Ferry), Matthew Plaisted (DEQ-CRO), and Jennifer Wester (DEQ-Technical Services). I reviewed the recommendations to update the QAP and BMP plan. Mr. Plaisted and I exited the facility at 11:30 am.

Appendices

1. Photo Log
2. Permit Status Report dated July 27, 2011

Signature and Date

Jennifer Wester, P.E.
Idaho DEQ

8/26/2011

TRIM Record: 2011AGF2286